



CUF Links

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

A Welcoming Congregation

a member congregation of the unitarian universalist association

Volume 08, Number 3

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Ice Storm Reflections



It's Thursday, February 21st, and as I write, the snow, ice, and hail are coming down in mighty gusts! February, 2008, has more than a week yet to go, but it has already proven to be one of the most furious months (weather-wise) that I can remember! We've had tornado warnings, flash floods, two significant ice storms, and some balmy days that felt more like May than mid-winter. It's enough to make me wonder.

I wonder whether we will all make it through the storm safely. I know that ice-covered trees and power lines will fall, and that some of us are likely to lose power. I know that roads will be slick, and that some drivers will feel the need to hurry, rather than taking it easy. I know that some sidewalks will be slippery and treacherous, while others will be entirely blocked by the snow. I know that there will be some accidents, and I can only hope that they will not be too serious, and that no one will suffer any irreversible injury or damage. I hope that you are doing all right, and that you will take it easy. The storm calls us to remember that our lives do not always need to be as full as they often are.

I wonder also at the strange beauty of an ice-covered landscape. Even in my frustrating and futile attempts to maintain a clear walking path to the street, I have to admit that it's really strikingly pretty. Yes, the extra work and the seemingly endless bouts of shoveling are pains in the bottom, but I do find

the vistas of snow and ice to be lovely, even as I recognize the hard work that they entail. Ralph Waldo Emerson's phrase "the beautiful meteor of the snow" comes to mind today – perhaps a day like this one inspired his turn of phrase. T. S. Eliot's "mid-winter spring" describes the sunlight glinting off ice-encrusted tree limbs in the late afternoon, another image that the month of February has brought to us this year.

I wonder, too, about the cause or causes of this weather that I find so unusual. I expect to encounter ice and snow in February, but even here in southern Illinois, temperatures close to 70 degrees seem strange, and tornadoes at this time of year are "off the charts" for me! I understand that one of the aspects of climate change is greater variability of weather patterns. While I do not know how a scientist might measure that type of phenomenon, I'm growing more and more convinced that we ought to do all that we can to reduce and reverse our individual and collective carbon footprints. I know that I would rather err on the side of preserving the planet's fragile ecology than on the side of damaging it.

But there is at least one thing that I do not wonder about. If I should need help or assistance in this challenging weather -- I don't have to wonder whether there is anyone I can call. I know that I can call you if I need help, and that you can call me. Together, we know we can get through the ice storm and the rest of February's challenges. If you need the Fellowship's help, or mine, don't hesitate to call!

May the warmth you need be yours!

Bills.

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carbondleuu@verizon.net -- Yolana Presley, editor
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services begin at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

March 3 Bill Sasso: "Living a Life That Matters"

Does your life matter? Let's hope so, but why should we wonder – let's find out for sure! The ideas of Rabbi Harold Kushner – author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* and more recently *Living a Life That Matters* – will be our springboard, but we'll dive into the issue and surface in some surprising places!

March 9 Lois Hayward: "Dorothea Dix: A Purpose-Driven Life"

In recognition of women's history month, Fellowship member Lois Hayward, will share the story of Dorothea Dix, a pioneer in prison reform and champion of those with mental disabilities. As one of the leaders of our New Day Prison Ministries program, Lois will reflect on how prisons have changed, and how they have stayed the same.

March 16 Bill Sasso: "A Twentieth Century Woman in the Nineteenth Century"

A colleague of Ralph Waldo Emerson, a rival of Theodore Parker, and an unabashed champion of the rights of women, Margaret Fuller's *"Woman in the Nineteenth Century"* was an inspiration to later generations of activists for women's rights. Join Bill as he explores Fuller's life, her death at a young age, and her contribution to our understanding of justice for women and men together. Our Social Action Offering will go to Carbondale's Abundant Health Resource Clinic.

March 23 Bill Sasso: "Prayers in the Garden"

As the Gospels tell us, Jesus spent the night before his crucifixion praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Our Easter Sunday service will examine those prayers, the larger experience of that complicated night, and how the story of that episode may speak to the meaning of prayer in our lives and our lives themselves.

March 30 Bill Sasso: "Stewards of the Future"

As a steward, we are entrusted with something that belongs to others. In the sense that our actions today shape both tomorrow and the days to follow, we are all stewards of the future. The future that we hope to realize has many aspects, and most of them will require intention and commitment. Join Bill for this expedition into the possibilities and the challenges of our shared future.

And coming up . . .

April 6 Bill Sasso: "Building Interfaith Bridges"



OPEN MINDS

Meetings begin at 8:45 AM in the Fellowship Commons

March 2, Open Minds Forum TBA

Discussion of local, national, and global issues of concern. Bring articles, writings, news clips, photos, or videos to share. Open Minds team will coordinate the programs.

March 9, Nick Earll, "Hiking in Northern Spain"

March 16, "Cosmos VIII: Traveling in Time and Space" video series by Carl Sagan Can time be altered? What are the effects of Einstein's Theory of Relativity on space travel? Upon returning to Earth, after a journey to the center of the galaxy, what would the explorers find surprising? Discussion following the viewing coordinated by Bob Camp

March 23, Inge Rader, "Traveling in Egypt"

March 30, Open Minds Forum TBA

The Open Minds team invites your presentation of a program on any Open Forum date. Contact Dave Christensen or Bob Lembcke with your idea.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

by Mary Campbell

The 2008-09 Stewardship Campaign is getting ready to roll. The members of the Fellowship are good stewards of our community and the interconnected web of which we are apart. The Stewardship Campaign provides members an opportunity to make their financial contribution to support our mission and vision. This year members who choose will meet in a group setting. Three groups will be held at the Fellowship: Sunday April 6th at noon, Sunday April 20th at noon, and a week night yet to be announced. Meetings in member's homes: Wednesday April 9th at 6:30pm in Carterville, Friday April 11th at 6:30pm in Carbondale, April 15th at 2:00pm in Carbondale, April 17th at 7:00pm in Carbondale, and April 18th at 7:00pm in Herrin.

When I have all the dates and times, they will be sent in the Wednesday email sent from CUF office. This will give members time to check family schedules. Members

will start signing up for a group on Sunday March 9th. For members who do not sign up for a group, you will be contacted by a visiting steward. Remember this is your time to share your ideas of how the Fellowship is meeting our goals. It is also the time you provide the Fellowship of what future dreams you have.

Our kick off event will be Saturday April 5th. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** It is a time for fun, food and entertainment. We have many different opportunities to participate in this campaign. To participate and share your talents or if you have a question contact me at mspurple1999@yahoo.com or call 521-0851.

Thanks,

Mary Campbell

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR



"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

- Albert Schweitzer.

I can certainly tell you that many times our children and youth have lighted the flame within me, and I'm grateful. They

come to us each week with energy, curiosity, humor, intelligence, beautiful and full of potential. For only a short time are we granted the responsibility to encourage that potential, and we miss the opportunity at our own loss.

Beginning Sunday, June 1, we will begin our "one-room" summer Sunday program. Each Sunday we will offer a program targeted for kids, Kindergarten through 5th grade. Older kids can either help with the program (we like them to help), or sit with their parents during their service. We have everything an adult volunteer teacher would need to step in and oversee a Sunday one-room class. Have you been a volunteer teacher during this school year? If not, then you are eligible for our summer Sunday program, as we think it's appropriate to give our school-year teachers the summer off (sounds fair, don't you think?). Tell me if you'd like to know more about this opportunity.

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn

a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."

- Melody Beattie.

Being in a position where I regularly invite people to spend time with our children has proved interesting. For example, it's not unusual for folks to respond to an invitation, to teach or provide other support, with a concern of competence. Some just don't feel they'd do a good enough job. I can't tell you how many workshops I've been to, where the participants are asked to share what they remember of their own childhood religious education. Without exception, people seldom can recall a particular class, lesson, or even a teacher. Overwhelmingly however, they remember how they felt. See, we're not looking for the most technically accomplished teachers; we're looking for people who care.

I can imagine many of you are grateful to those who spent time with and taught you. And you probably would show that gratitude, if you only knew what to do. Well, talk to me or any member of the RE Committee. We'll work with you to find a way where you can be of help, make a difference, and get your flame lighted. We don't want any of you feeling the way William Arthur Ward describes it - "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

Glowingly grateful,

Roy Sumner,

Director of Religious Education

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to write about 3 things this week. None of them are new, but still important.

Stewardship.
Leadership.
Ownership.

Stewardship

We are beginning that time in the Fellowship year where we are preparing for our Stewardship Campaign. We will be asking each member to take a look at the Fellowship and make a financial commitment to supporting it in the coming year. We know from past experience that informed members will give their fair share, providing the resources necessary for the Fellowship to continue as an intellectually stimulating, spiritually nourishing, socially responsive and caring community.

The board has gathered input from the congregation, is preparing a budget and will present a description of what you would like the Fellowship to accomplish next year. Any growth will be built on top of the commitments we have to staff, building and current programs. You will decide, through your annual pledge, what you want the Fellowship to accomplish in the coming year.

“Don’t give until it hurts. Rather give until it helps!”

Rem Stokes

Leadership

The Fellowship is blessed with many members with many talents. It is the giving of time and talent that allows us to accomplish so much. We have teachers for our children. We have musicians for our worship and entertainment. We have volunteers who sell Equal Exchange products. We have volunteers who greet and welcome, make coffee and do dishes, shovel sidewalks and put tables away, etc.. We have leaders who plan, formulate policy and make decisions on our behalf. We have committee chairs who make sure the work of the Fellowship is done, and done well with the time, talent and energy of committee members.

As we plan for a new year, I ask you to consider how you would like to use your time and talent to not only act on the values you have, but to support this vibrant community. The congregation will be asked to vote on officers, board members and Nominating committee members in May. Is it time for you to fill one of these elected positions? There are also many committees that carry out much of the work of the Fellowship. Perhaps you may want to join a committee or move into the chair of a committee. Consider yourself called to seriously consider your commitments of time and talent.

Ownership

Who owns this Fellowship? You do. Do you know the rules under which we are governed? Take a look at the bylaws. Seriously, please review the bylaws and the changes that have been recommended. A Bylaws committee has worked hard to streamline them and formally incorporate an Endowment Fund. The announcement you received the third week in February is the product of this committee. It reflects the recommendations of the Unitarian Universalist Association and was approved by the CUF Board of Trustees.

We use the democratic process in our decision making. Any member can offer an alternative, and we have a few amendments proposed by a member. While I support the proposal drafted by the Bylaws committee and approved by the Board, I support the right for any member to be heard. Material has been distributed and put on the web site. Informational meetings for members to ask questions will be scheduled. Bylaw members and board members are available for individual discussions. My hope is that clear and concise arguments are available for the congregation’s consideration.

Please take the time to understand the changes proposed. Ask questions. Attend the Congregational meeting on 3/30. You own it. Care for it.

Jerry Molumby, President



Cool Cities Dialog with the Mayor 02/07/08

FROM THE OFFICE

by Melanie Bray



I hope all of you remained safe during the bad weather we experienced last week. I really don't mind being "snowed" in on occasion – but the ice was unwelcome and it is sad to see all of the damaged trees. However, this week I saw my daffodils poking up out of the ground so I know that Spring is right around the corner! Hope is renewed.

Spring is a busy time here at the fellowship. If you are responsible for scheduling programs and/or meetings, I want to remind you again to check your program schedule in the "Big White Book" and update and make any changes.

There are updated member directories in the sermon racks located in the coat rooms. The directories are very

helpful to have on-hand so pick one up and remember to let me know of any changes or updates.

I am trying to keep an updated folder of photos on the office computer. If you happen to snap a picture of any happenings here at the fellowship, please send them to me by email at cufvolunteers@verizon.net. I know there have been potlucks, special music recitals, ice skating, birthday parties and such – so start snapping some pictures at these events and send those photos to the office.

I will be recruiting a few volunteers to fill-in for me during my absence over Spring Break. I will be gone on Friday March 7th, Monday March 10th and Wednesday March 12th. If any of you would like to work in the office during that time just let me know and I will give you tasks to keep you busy and productive!

Hope you all enjoy the awakening of the new season.

~Melanie

Spotlight Interview - Communications Committee

by Melanie Bray

Communication can be defined as the process of meaningful interaction among human beings. It is the act of passing information and the process by which meanings are exchanged so as to produce understanding. I had the pleasure of interviewing Yo Presley and learning about the Communication Committee. This committee is difficult to describe and the participating members are many. Some of the members include, Russ Trimble, Bob Camp, Lois Lembcke, Janet Levie, Judy Adyt, Vennie Anderson, and Joan Juul. Much to my surprise, I found out that I am a contributor to this committee and so are many others. When you have a congregation of nearly 200 members, communication is essential to the overall function and effectiveness of this organization.

For a moment think about how we communicate here at the fellowship in a typical week. There is the Order of Service you receive on Sunday morning to help you follow the structure of the service. After the service, you take a moment to read the bulletin board while you sip your coffee. You might even pick up a sermon from sermon rack, or grab a brochure of an upcoming community event. You open your email on Wednesday to read the weekly bulletin and make note of the Sunday sermon, deadlines, meeting times and upcoming events. You may go online to the CUF website (www.cuuf.net) to check the updated bylaws or to view the monthly calendar. Once a month, you also take some time to read this newsletter (CUF Links) and enjoy and learn from the words written by Bill, Roy, Jerry and others. You open the local newspaper and read about the next Open Minds topic and meeting details or see our next week's Sunday service featured on the Faith & Value section of the Southern Illinoisan. I hope that you get the idea that all of these types of communication are essential to the success of this congregation.

The communication committee is responsible for the coordina-

tion of this information system. The jobs are huge and very time consuming. Here is a list of some of the functions of this valuable committee:

- Press releases
- Order of Service
- Program brochures
- New member and prospective member packets
- Outside advertising
- Email distribution list
- Weekly bulletin
- CUF Links newsletter
- Website
- Sermon rack information
- Graphic artwork of the fellowship
- Membership directory

As you can see, this communication is the "heartbeat" of this fellowship. Yo and others work diligently to maintain the continuity of these vital information systems and resources.

Are you asking what you can do as a member to help this system of distributing information function? I am glad that you asked! Make sure that you give clear, concise information to Russ, Yo or to the office for the bulletin, newsletter, or the order of service. It is also important to meet the deadlines that are given to ensure proper timely distribution of the information.

If you have an interest in any of these tasks that the communications committee handles, please talk to Yo. We need people to help with the website, and someone to continually archive our recent history with photos, newspaper clippings and member information.

I hope you are better informed about the function of the Communications Committee and the importance it plays in our success as a progressive, productive fellowship!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CUF ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT is fast approaching. The retreat will be held at the Little Grassy Methodist Camp off of Giant City Road, February 29 - March 2. Brochures will be mailed to you if you don't pick one up after the Sunday Service. The brochure will include registration and other details. Last minute decision to come? contact Tami Frank tami@c-infinity.net or Pamela Jacobini pjacobini@siumed.edu as soon as possible. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



Scene from last year's retreat

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY is a Unitarian Universalist adult curriculum focusing on five major questions: Who am I? How do I know? Who or what is in charge? What is my purpose in life? and What does my death mean? These five big questions form the framework of the course; at each meeting, we will deal with one of these questions. We will meet Wednesday evenings, 7:30 to 9, from March 19th to April 30th (skipping April 23rd). Registration is required; each session requires advance preparation. To register, or for more info, contact Bill S. (529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com).

CUF BYTES

UPDATED MEMBER DIRECTORIES are now available in the sermon racks at the fellowship. Be sure to pick one up!

CUF LINKS HARD COPIES are available at the Fellowship on the visitor table for anyone who would like this convenience.

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, April 8th, as part of Interfaith Week, the Fellowship will host a viewing of "*Ties That Bind*," a documentary film on interfaith relationships. Following the film, we'll offer a meal and opportunities for interfaith conversation here in our own community. Please plan to attend, and to invite friends and acquaintances from other faith traditions. We plan the video at 5:30, followed by the meal and subsequent conversations. For more information, please contact Bill Sasso (529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com).

CUF CLASSIFIED ADS

Fair Trade coffee, tea chocolate, nuts or cranberries are available from our Fair Trade coordinator. Contact Janet Harris to order or see what she has in stock after services on Sundays in the Commons.



NATIONAL UU GLOBAL AIDS COALITION TO MEET IN CARBONDALE

The steering committee for UUGAC will meet in Carbondale to discuss the future of the organization, update our goals, and plan how we can be most effective in continuing our goal to support congregations in their work to help, educate, legislate, and commit to the ever continuing **GLOBAL AIDS PANDEMIC**.

Our own Jerry Molumby will lead us in the planning process
at an all day retreat on March 8th.

**FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE
AT THE FELDHAMERS ON SAT. EVENING ON MARCH 8TH FROM 7-9 PM.**

Please bring a snack or finger food to share....drinks will be provided.

RSPV 457-8606 or hospice88@aol.com

March Social Action Update

by Jess Jobe

March's Social Action Sunday Collection is set for Sunday, March 16 and will benefit Abundant Health Resource Clinic in Carbondale. Please give generously to support Abundant Health Resource Clinic, which offers free medical care and health casemanagement services to low income uninsured in Jackson County. More information about the clinic will be offered in an upcoming Order of Service, prior to the collection. All cash contributions will be donated to Abundant Health Resource Clinic. **If donating by check, please address your check to Abundant Health Resource Clinic.**

Social Action Sunday collections have been generous thus far. January's collection benefiting the Lighthouse Shelter in Marion netted \$401 and the February collection for Good Samaritan Ministries collected over \$900. Both organizations greatly appreciated the contributions. Thank you to all who have given!

Spring Cleanup at **Big Rock Adopt A Highway spot is tentatively set for Saturday, March 31.** Look to upcoming announcements in the Order of Services about times. We really need volunteers with knees and elbows and hips in good working condition...and picking up trash can help them stay that way!

Speaking of spring cleanup, many of us will begin poking around our houses looking to rid ourselves of items in good condition that are no longer needed by us, but would be welcomed by others. This time of year always makes my husband especially nervous, as I really like to get stuff out of our house! **Yes, yard sale time is approaching. No, we are not collecting yard sale items yet!** Please set your unwanted treasures aside for a while—we will begin accepting them in June, with the tentative dates for the annual social action yard sale June 13-14 at the Fellowship. Again, kindly keep your items at your home until we call for them to be brought in, in June!

Social Action at the Women's Retreat

Donations of good condition baby clothes and infant/toddler books will be accepted at the Women's Retreat, and will be sent by New Day Prison Ministry to Dwight Correctional Center, which now has a special program for incarcerated moms and their babies.

There will be a social advocacy table set up at the Retreat for those interested in writing their elected officials about a matter of concern. Stamps and stationary and social action suggested topics will be available, along with the addresses of elected officials. Also at the Retreat, sign up sheets will be available for those interested in working on sewing projects for Zambia.

Current list of group/program/committee leaders

Art/Aesthetics Committee: Barbara Lesar
 Committee on Ministry: Joyce Webb, Joe Schmit and Matt Stronkoski
 Finance Committee: Ed Phillips
 Nominating Committee: Dave Clark, Alan Christensen, Jan Eisenhard
 Personnel Committee: George Feldhamer
 Building and Grounds Committee: Loren Cocking (bldg) & George Feldhamer (grnds)
 Bulletin Board: Lois Lembcke
 Canvass (Stewardship) Committee: Mary Campbell
 Caring and Sharing: Cheryl Robinson
 Chalice Lighters (Sundays): Roy Sumner
 Chalice Lighters (Fundraisers): open
 Choir: Geri Mckee
 Communications Committee: Yo Presley
 Covenant Group Ministries: Bill Sasso
 CUF Links (monthly newsletter): Yo Presley
 Denominational Affairs: open
 Email Bulletin: Russ Trimble & Melanie Bray
 Greeters & Coffee Hosts: Joyce Webb
 Health Ministry/Cong. Nurse: Vennie Anderson, RN
 Hospitality Committee: Janet Harris & Patsy Maxwell
 Interfaith Council: Ken and Kathy Starbuck
 Library Coordinator: Janet Levie
 Mailing List Manager: Melanie Bray
 Membership Committee: Cathy Kline
 Music Committee: Alan Christensen
 Open Minds: Dave Christiansen & Bob Lembcke
 Order of Service: Russ Trimble
 Pastoral Friends: Bill Sasso, Ken Starbuck, Matt Denis, Lois Hayward, Cheryl Robinson

Press Release Coordinator: Melanie Bray
 Program Committee: JoAnn Nelson & Janet Harris
 Religious Education Committee: Roy Sumner
 Sunday Service Committee: Samir Aouadi
 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: Amy Weber
 Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office: Dave Christensen
 Campus UU: Bridget Shepherd
 Web Site: Yo Presley
 Weekly Bulletin: Russ Trimble
 Welcoming Congregation: Judy Groskind

Special Interest Groups--

Carol's Lunch Bunch (women's lunch group): Mariann Douglass
 Community Forums: Bob Camp
 Dreamwork: Janet Harris
 Humanist Group: Bob Camp
 Intergenerational Potluck: Roy Sumner
 International Student Coffee Hour: JoAnn Nelson & Nillofur Zobairi
 PSI Symposium: Astrid Mosley & Mary Campbell
 Prison Ministries: Lois Hayward & Karen Swenson
 Round Table Readers: Janet Levie
 Social Action Committee: Jesslyn Jobe
 Sisterhood of Stickers: Elaine Seymour
 Supper Club: Janet Banerjee
 Tibetan Buddhism Study Group: Steve Blache
 Unitarian Folk Orchestra: Charlie Maxwell
 Unitarian Recorder Ensemble: Judy Aydt
 Video Circle: vacant
 Women's Retreat: Tami Frank & Pamela Jacobini

CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Study Groups:

ADVENTURES IN PARENTHOOD: An interactive exploration of the joys, the sorrows, and educational aspects of being a parent, coordinated by Bill Sasso and featuring presenters on relevant topics. This program will be offered from 10 to noon, on the following Saturdays: February 2nd, March 22nd, and May 3rd. Childcare will be available. To register (or for more information) contact Bill Sasso (529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com).

THE HUMAN SPECTRUM: The Welcoming Congregation Committee invites you to attend this ongoing exploration of the gender and sexual continuums. Guest speakers will discuss issues that challenge individuals who are Gay (January 7), Lesbian (February 4), and Bisexual (March 3). The talks will be held at the Fellowship from 7 to 9 PM the first Mondays of each month and will include time for questions and lively discussion. Mark your calendars! For more info, contact Judy Groskind (985-5007) or Bill Sasso (529-2439).

Ongoing:

THE DREAM WORKSHOP. *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00ish.*
March 2. This month we invite everyone who is interested in sharing their dreams in a warm and supportive atmosphere to join us.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COFFEE HOUR. *This event takes place every fourth Friday of each month at the International Student Annex on the SIU Campus at 3:00 PM.*

March 28. Our Fellowship hosts the International Coffee hour once each month. Come and meet new friends from around the world. Bring cookies and drinks to share. Contact JoAnn Nelson or Nillofur Zobairi for more information.

HUMANIST GROUP. *This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM*

March 12, "Spiritual Humanism: Best of Both Worlds" Paul Mundschenk, Prof. Religious Studies (emeritus) Western Illinois University, early member of Peace Corps in Colombia, considers himself spiritual but not religious. What does that mean? Come find out. All welcome! Call Bob Camp 351 0083 for additional information.

HUMANIST ROUND TABLE. *This group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM*

March 26, "Life Savers: Hope for Teens in Crisis" Judy Ashby, Director of Life Saver's Training Corporation. Life Savers is a peer support, crisis and suicide prevention program. Teenagers are taught the skills of compassionate, attentive listening in their interactions with their peers. Much more...All Welcome. Call Bob Camp for additional information.

PSI SYMPOSIUM. *This group meets the second Sunday of the Month in Room 06 at Noon*

March 9. Information concerning the topic this month will be published in the weekly bulletin.

ROUNDTABLE READERS. *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month in Room 04 after the Sunday Service at Noon*

March 23, *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*, by Nathaniel Philbrick. This nonfiction bestseller was named one of the ten Best Books of 2006 by the New York Times Book Review. According to Janet Maslin, Philbrick "has written a judicious, fascinating work of revisionist history." According to the L.A. Times, he "combines [hindsight] with empathy to challenge twin myths about America's beginnings. The Pilgrims were neither religious patriots nor bloody conquerors. And the Native Americans they befriended, then betrayed were more sophisticated and less peaceful than commonly believed." The book is available in paperback, with one copy in the CUF library.

SCIENCE IN SOCIETY. *This group meets some Fridays of the Month in the Fellowship Commons at 5:00 PM.* Contact Gina Paul at rpaul@siumed.edu or 351-1064 if you have questions.

CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS continued...

TIBETAN BUDDHISM STUDY GROUP *This group meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Commons at 7:00 PM. For more information: www.shawnee-dharma.org*

March. We are currently studying a teaching by the Dzogchen Ponlup Rinpoche, “*Mind Beyond Death.*”

VIDEO CIRCLE *is looking for a leader or leaders. Traditionally the Circle meets on Friday once or twice a month. The leader decides what movies will be shown, the length of time spent for discussion afterwards and how often a month to meet. Contact Janet Harris, Nillofur Zobairi, Inge Rader or JoAnn Nelson.*

YOGA FOR ZAMBIA. *This group meets on the third Sunday in the Fellowship Commons from 12:30 to 2:00 PM*

March 16, An hour and a half of Yoga starting at 12:30 after the service and coffee in the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship Commons. Bring a light snack and water (also available in the water fountain). There is a SUGGESTED only donation of \$10.00 which will go to the Zambia Hospice Project. Mats available for those who need them. (Bring your own if you have one.)

Sharing & Caring

by Cheryl Robinson

The Sharing & Caring team at our fellowship exists to provide help for members who may need some assistance while going through a difficult time physically or emotionally, such as those recently home from the hospital, recovering from an accident, or otherwise in need of some assistance temporarily. The team is coordinated by Cheryl Robinson, and has many members willing to help out when they can. We can provide a number of helpful services, depending on what the fellowship member or family needs at the time – meals, running errands to the grocery store or pharmacy, watering plants and yards, walking dogs,

light housekeeping, or whatever helpful service might be identified by the member in need. The team has quite a few members, so we take turns and each participating person is only asked to help out when they can. If you are ever in need of these types of services and have not yet been contacted by Cheryl (sometimes it takes a while for the communication to reach her), or if you learn of someone in need of these services in our fellowship, or would like to be a member of our service “team”, serving others in our community in times of need, please call Cheryl Robinson at 618-998-1390.



INTERFAITH WEEK ART EXHIBIT: Call for Submissions

The Carbondale Interfaith Council announces a call for artists to participate in a juried exhibition that will be held at the Carbondale Civic Center through the month of April in honor of Interfaith Week, which will be celebrated April 6-12, 2008.

Artists are invited to present actual works for review by a diverse committee of jurors who will make selections based upon excellence of execution and responsiveness to the theme: “Celebrating Carbondale’s religious diversity and honoring 25 years of interfaith dialogue and cooperation.”

Jurying will take place from 3-6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18 at Hickory Lodge, 1115 W. Sycamore, Carbondale.

“Our Faith” Children’s Art Exhibit Interfaith Week 2008

Southern Illinois children of all faith groups are invited to participate in the Interfaith Week 2008 Children’s Art Exhibit, “Our Faith,” which will be on display during Interfaith Week, April 6-12, 2008.

Children of all ages are invited to create any type of art that reflects their own traditions or the theme of Interfaith Week 2008: “Celebrating Carbondale’s religious diversity and honoring 25 years of interfaith dialogue and cooperation.”

Art pieces should be ready for display by March 31 and accompanied by a brief statement from the faith group explaining the works. Those who wish to participate can contact Marleen Shepherd at (618) 521-3541 or zion.road@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 30, 2008 at 11:50 AM

(NOTE: Date change to assure required notification of congregation.)

Babysitting provided.

AGENDA

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| 11:50 AM | Call to Order
Explanation of process to be used to consider revisions in the CUF Bylaws |
| 12:00 PM | Proposal to revise the Bylaws of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship |
| 12:30 PM | Adjourn (Anticipated) |

Two congregational dialogues were held to review the proposed bylaw changes and receive further input. In accordance with our current bylaws, the proposed changes are being sent to you at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. At the Congregational meeting on 3/30, the congregation will be asked to approve the proposed changes. To change bylaws, we need a good turnout of the members and a 2/3 majority voting to approve. Your vote is important.

Please use the resources listed below to become familiar with this very important Fellowship document. Please ask questions of the originators, Ed Phillips, Toby Saken, Joe Schmit or any board member. Jerry Molumby, President
1/25/08

- 1) Become familiar with the Bylaws and the proposed changes.
 - a) The attached pages were prepared by the Bylaw committee to provide explanations of what will be changed and why.
 - b) Obtain a copy of the proposed changes (side by side comparison) in the Bylaws by clicking on this link: use www.cuuf.net and click on "Bylaws" in the left menu bar of our home page. There is a link to the side by side version at the top of the bylaws page.
 - c) Pick up a printed copy at the Fellowship in the coat room sermon rack.
- 2) Attend an informational meeting to be scheduled closer to the Congregational Meeting.
- 3) Contact Ed Phillips at churchmouse@bnjinternet.net, any Bylaw committee member or Jerry Molumby at jmolumby@midwest.net with questions.
- 4) Come to the Congregational meeting on March 30th to vote. (If you will be unable to attend, more information will be published prior to the meeting to inform you how to vote by absentee ballot.)

CUF By-laws – Key Proposed Changes

This summary describes changes in a draft revision dated February 18, 2008. The summary does not provide details and perspective gained by reading the actual wording! Go to the CUF webpage <http://www.cuuf.net/> Under "Who We Are" click on "By-Laws." On the By-law page click on the link to the "Draft By-Laws Revision."

The key purpose for by-law revision is incorporation of a section describing the purpose of and procedures for a CUF Endowment Fund. The need to bring by-law revision to the members created an opportunity for critique and possible improvement of all sections.

Many editorial changes were made to eliminate unnecessary language, improve consistency and to remove administrative procedure. Preparing these revisions has been approximately an eight month process. Changes based on member input were made as recently as February 18th. The comments below describe changes from existing language. The comments will have the most meaning if they are read while reviewing the Draft By-Law Revision.

Voting on the proposed revisions will occur **March 30th**. Information regarding absentee voting will be published before that meeting.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- Eliminates any specified dollar amount as a minimum pledge contribution.
 - Requires members to annually update contact information and make a pledge.
 - Specifies three possibilities for terminating membership: (1) voluntarily notifying the Board, (2) not completing an annual pledge, and (3) engaging in conduct inconsistent with our values (which is the current language).
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CUF By-laws – Key Proposed Changes - continued**ARTICEL V. BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Eliminate the need for notification of meetings “by mail.”

Continues to permit absentee ballots but removes administrative procedures from the By-laws.

Removes ability for a single individual to call for a secret ballot. Secret ballots are permitted only at the discretion of the President or as requested by a majority of the membership voting.

Establishes 20% of members as the quorum for all business meetings. Indicates all votes require a majority of those voting which includes members present and absentee ballots.

Establishes a minimum hurdle of 40% of the membership to approve by-law changes, hiring/firing a minister, providing the Board authority to seek and hire an interim minister and expenditure of any amount of principle of unrestricted Endowment Funds.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Adds to the Board’s responsibilities “reporting on a regular basis operational data such as budget performance, financial status, and membership.”

Section 4. describes the Board members’ responsibilities to communicate with members and committees and represent those views at Board meetings. The descriptors “through consistent attendance and cogent dialogue” are removed.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS; ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President and Vice-President terms changed from one to two years.

Removes from the description of the officer election process at business meetings the statement about voting by “a show-of-hands unless a secret ballot is required.”

Eliminates need for an election to fill an interim President’s position and states the Vice-President will assume the position.

Specifies that interim vacancies for all other Board positions will be filled by Presidential appointment after consulting with the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board.

Adds to the Vice-President’s position the role of Chair of the Personnel Committee.

Adds to the Treasurer’s position the role of Chair of the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Adds Endowment, Finance and Personnel Committees.

Endowment Committee responsibilities added as separate ARTICLE XIII.

Specifies Finance Committee responsibilities: The Finance Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and performs the oversight and tasks necessary to responsibly manage the funds of the Fellowship advising the Board of Trustees and other committees of actions needed or desired to achieve that objective. The Treasurer serves as committee chairperson. Members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. Establishes six-year term limit.

Moves description of Ministry Committee to this ARTICLE. A Ministry Committee assists the Minister in supporting and monitoring the health of the Fellowship’s ministry. Members of this committee shall be nominated by the Minister and serve with the concurrence of the Board of Trustees. Establishes six-year term limit.

Interim vacancies on Nominating Committee appointed by the President.

Adds description of the Personnel Committee: The Personnel Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and performs the oversight and tasks necessary to ensure the Fellowship’s staffing needs are met and that the ministers and hourly staff of the Fellowship are properly evaluated and compensated. The Vice President serves as committee chairperson. Members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Committee will hear and respond to employee grievances. Establishes six-year term limit.

ARTICLE IX. MINISTER AND FELLOWSHIP STAFF

Interim vacancies on a Ministerial Search Committee filled by “the President” with the approval of the Board instead of “by the Board of Trustees.”

Changes language for hiring an interim minister to indicate that the same detailed search process for a permanent minister need not be followed when searching for and hiring an interim minister.

Specifies that a newly hired minister will work with the Personnel Committee to develop the employment contract.

Changes description of the Fellowship Staff to “salaried personnel filling positions other than ministers.” Administrative language for hiring procedures removed. Specifies that funds for any such position must be approved by the congregation.

ARTICLE X. FISCAL YEAR.

Adds that the CUF fiscal year is designated by the “calendar year in which it ends” which formalizes our current practice.

CUF By-laws – Key Proposed Changes - continued from page 11.

ARTICLE XI. FISCAL AUTHORITY

Current language states the Board may approve a single \$5,000 expense if it will not cause a deficit at the end of the year. This language provides no guideline for the purpose of such expenditure and no guidance is provided for the source of this money.

The key issue is the authority the Board has to spend money from the Reserve Fund...which is the only place this money is available other than to incur debt. The proposed change allows the Board to spend Reserve Funds for unplanned emergencies and/or opportunities in an amount “up to 3% of the annual operating budget.”

Administrative language (i.e. investments shall be in some “interest bearing account,” etc.) is removed or reduced in scope and replaced by policy guidance (i.e. “The Board shall insure that the cash assets of the Fellowship are optimally invested”).

ARTICLE XIII. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Background:

The language in this section is the result of more than six-months of research and deliberation by a group of individuals. Early in the process Ban Banerjee, Floyd Cunningham and Rhonda Koch participated. Dave Sharpe joined a third of the way through the process. Kathy O’Laughlin, Ed Phillips and Bill Sasso participated throughout. The final wording is the effort of Ed, Toby Saken and Joe Schmidt. Key guidance is from the UUA endowment manual.

The approach described here is a compromise. There was strong sentiment to have a separate Endowment group elected by the members and perhaps with its own bylaws. Some churches actually form a separate non-profit corporation to manage the endowment.

The approach chosen here is a CUF Board appointed committee with what might be called compulsive guidance on how to proceed. This is done with the intent of creating confidence among our members and friends that the money they give to the CUF Endowment Fund will be respectfully, carefully and well managed.

ARTICLE XIII

Defines that endowment funds may be unrestricted or restricted. Restricted funds may take any form only limited by the imagination of the donor. The various possible options are not anticipated by or included in the by-laws.

The guidance in this article provides structure to administering unrestricted funds.

States the purpose is to secure, strengthen and extend the long-term mission of CUF.

The Fund is to be used for significant activities that further the principles, programs and purposes of CUF.

Assets of the Funds may NOT be used for annual operating expenses. The purpose does NOT include items such as major facility repair which is one of the possible uses of Reserve Funds.

The Fund is administered by a five member Committee reporting to the Board.

The Endowment Committee monitors the Funds investments, financial reports and annual audits working closely with the Treasurer. (The Treasurer and Finance Committee provide a service to the Endowment Committee by performing the financial operations necessary to administer the fund). Endowment Funds shall be maintained in accounts separate from other funds (i.e. annual operating funds).

Any proposal for expenditure of unrestricted Endowment Funds must be processed through and recommended by the Endowment Committee. Expenditure of “proceeds” (i.e. interest, appreciation) of the funds requires a majority vote of the membership at a business meeting. Expenditure of any amount of the principle requires approval by 40% of the membership.

A Note From the Editor

The deadline for the April issue of CUF Links will be **Thursday evening, March 27th**. You may leave items for the Newsletter in the CUF Links box in the Fellowship office or email me at: yo@astrosleuth.com
Pictures are always welcome! *Yo Presley*